CLERK

No. 82-2030

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1982

DAMON TUCKER ANDERSON, Petitioner,

VS.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Respondent.

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Criminal Appeals of the State of Oklahoma

RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

- 1. Does the warrantless search of a football field sized marijuana field violate the Fourth Amendment when the field is a significant distance from the curtillage area?
- 2. Does the search warrant, which was obtained after narcotics agents observed a large field of marijuana in an open field, sufficiently describe the location to be searched, the items to be seized and was the search warrant issued upon probable cause?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Questions Presented for Review	i
Opinion Below	2
Jurisdiction	2
Constitutional and Statutory Provisions Involved	2
Statement of the Case	4
Reasons Why The Writ Should Be Denied	8
I. The opinion of the Oklahoma Court Criminal Appeals is consistent with existing Fourth Amendment law in that the search of the petitioner's premises was made pursuant to the open fields doctrine; furthermore, this is not an appropriate case for certiorari since there was conflicting testimony concerning the existence of a sign along a roadway to the petitioner's property	of

		Pag
п.	The search warrant adequately des- cribed the place to be searched, the items to be seized and clearly sets forth probable cause for belief that the items sought were on the property	
	searched	12
Cone	elusion	13

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES	Page
Air Pollution Variance Board v. Western Alfalfa, 416 U.S. 861	
(1974)	8
Andresen v. Maryland, 427 U.S. 463 (1976)	12
Floria v. Brady, 406 So.2d 1093	
(1982), cert. granted, U.S, 50 U.S.L.W. 3934 (May 24,	
1982)	9
Gates v. Illinois, U.S, 51 U.S.L.W. 4709 (June 8, 1983)	12
Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57	
(1924)	8,11
United States v. Knotts, U.S. 51 U.S.L.W. 4232 (March 2, 1983)	. 8
United States v. Oliver, 686 F.2d 356 (6th Cir. 1982), cert. granted,	
U.S, 51 U.S.L.W. 3552 (January 29, 1983)	10
20, 2000,	10
STATUTES	
21 O.S.1981, \$ 1835(a)	9
83 O.S.Supp. 1976, \$ 2-509	3,4
63 O.S.Supp. 1978, \$ 2-204	2

CONSTITUTION	Page
U.S. Const., Fourth Amendment	2
OTHER AUTHORITIES	
28 U.S.C. § 1257(3)	2

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES October Term, 1982

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RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

The respondent, State of Oklahoma, by and through Michael C. Turpen, Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma, respectfully requests that this Court deny the petition for writ of certiorari seeking review of the Opinion of the Court of Criminal Appeals of the State of Oklahoma entered on February 10, 1983, and to which rehearing was denied on April 5, 1983.

OPINION BELOW

The Opinion of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals is reported at 658 P.2d 501 (Okl.Cr. 1983).

JURISDICTION

This Court's jurisdiction is involved pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1257(3).

PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides as follows:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Title 63 O.S.Supp.1978, \$ 2-204 provides, in part, as follows:

"The controlled substances listed in this section are included in Schedule I.

. . .

"C. Any material, compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of the following hallucinogenic substances, . . .

. . .

"10. Marihuana."

Title 63 O.S.Supp. 1976, \$ 2-509 provides in part:

"All species of plants from which controlled dangerous substances in Schedules I and II may be derived are hereby declared inimical to health and welfare of the public, and the intent of the Legislature is to control and eradicate these species of the plants in the State of Oklahoma.

"1. It shall be unlawful for any person to cultivate or produce, or to knowingly permit the cultivation, production, or wild growing of any species of such plants, on any lands owned or controlled by such person, and it is hereby declared the duty of every such person to destroy all such plants found growing on lands owned or controlled by him."

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Damon Tucker Anderson, a/k/a Chub Anderson (hereinafter referred to as the "petitioner"), was convicted of the crime of Unlawful Cultivation of Marijuana in violation of 63 O.S.Supp.1976, \$ 2-509, in the District Court of Rogers County, State of Oklahoma. The petitioner, who is represented by counsel, waived his right to a jury trial and the case was submitted to the Court for a determination of guilt or innocence based on the transcript of the preliminary hearing, exhibits and certain stipulations. The Court found the petitioner guilty and sentenced him to ten years in the custody of the Department of Corrections, six years of which were suspended, and fined the petitioner \$50,000.

The facts which were presented to the Court reveal that on August 6, 1980, agents Guyton and Harris of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs met with a confidential informant in the City of Bartlesville, Oklahoma (Tr. 7). The three then drove approximately 20 to 30 minutes to a rural location to the northeast of Bartlesville (Tr. 7,67). The agents and the confidential informant drove first in an easterly direction on the north side of Section 8, which is the section within which the petitioner's property was located. They then turned around and went around the section to a dirt and gravel road which goes on the

south side of Section 8. They then traveled in an easterly direction along this road (Tr. 7-8,157). The three drove along this road until they got to a fence where they parked, climbed the fence and proceeded by foot (Tr. 157-158). Agents Guyton and Harris both testified that along this road they observed no signs of any kind (Tr. 13,51,52,60,158,197).

Agent Guyton testified that their purpose in going to this particular place was to investigate a marijuana field, which the confidential informant had advised was at this location (Tr. 159).

The confidential informant walked with the two agents until they were approximately 250 yards south of the marijuana field (Tr. 159). The agents left the confidential informant at this point and walked to a place approximately 75 yards from the marijuana field where it then became visible (Tr. 159).

The agents then observed a marijuana patch the size of a football field (Tr. 31,64). The field was surrounded by an orange metal barbed wire fence (Tr. 159). Agent Guyton testified that the plants were from approximately six to thirteen feet tall and were green from apparent irrigation (Tr. 159,164). The agents were approximately ten yards from the fence before they positively identified the plants as being marijuana (Tr. 201). In the southwest corner of the marijuana field

was a water pump hooked up to an electric outlet with a hose running to a creek (Tr. 163).

The agents then went into the marijuana field approximately 20 feet (Tr. 163). Agent Guyton testified that the plants were so dense that he could not have seen someone five feet from him (Tr. 165). The agents entered the field to take samples of the marijuana and pictures of the field (Tr. 163).

While agents Guyton and Harris were inspecting the field, they heard someone approaching their location (Tr. 164). They observed the petitioner approach and saw him look at the irrigation pump and begin making adjustments on it (Tr. 165). The petitioner was carrying an arm load of marijuana stalks and was chopping other stalks with a knife (Tr. 165,166). The petitioner was carrying a .357 Magnum pistol as well (Tr. 17).

The petitioner began approaching the location where the agents were hidden and they decided that they should arrest him at this time (Tr. 166). The agents, after taking the petitioner into custody, went to Bartlesville, obtained a search warrant and returned to execute such at approximately midnight of the same day (Tr. 168).

After obtaining the search warrant, the agents went to the petitioner's residential trailer in Section 8 (Tr. 169). The distance between the residential trailer

and the marijuana field was estimated by different witnesses as being between 60 to 200 yards (Tr. 108), 75 yards (Tr. 140), 200 yards (Tr. 188) and 525 feet (Tr. 243). Agent Guyton testified that in his opinion the residential trailer was approximately 200 yards from the marijuana field and that it was approximately a seven to ten minute walk between the two points (Tr. 188-190). Agent Guyton also testified that the marijuana field was visible from the air (Tr. 193).

The agents, along with an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper and the sheriff of Washington County, executed the search warrant and found evidence of marijuana processing in a nearby shed, which was 30 to 40 yards from the residential trailer (Tr. 128,129). Inside the residential trailer were numerous amounts of marijuana, pipes, seeds, roach clips, booklets, papers and other paraphernalia (Tr. 176-180). The agents also found \$3,120 in cash in a safe in the house (Tr. 181).

REASONS WHY THE WRIT SHOULD BE DENIED

OF CRIMINAL APPEALS IS CONSISTENT
WITH EXISTING FOURTH AMENDMENT
LAW IN THAT THE SEARCH OF THE PETITIONER'S PREMISES WAS MADE PURSUANT TO THE OPEN FIELDS DOCTRINE;
FURTHERMORE, THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE CASE FOR CERTIORARI SINCE
THERE WAS CONFLICTING TESTIMONY
CONCERNING THE EXISTENCE OF A SIGN
ALONG A ROADWAY TO THE PETITIONER'S PROPERTY.

The State contends that the facts as set forth above reveal that the search was properly conducted in accordance with the "open fields" doctrine. See United States v. Knotts, _____, 51 U.S.L.W. 4232, 4235 (U.S. March 2, 1983); Air Pollution Variance Board v. Western Alfalfa, 416 U.S. 861 (1974); Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57 (1924). The distinction between open fields and the privacy of the house is "as old as the common law." Hester v. United States, supra, 265 U.S. at 59.

The facts revealed that the petitioner was growing a marijuana field the size of a football field on land which he was leasing. The field was visible from the air. In getting to the field, the narcotics agents traveled on a road which crossed a gate which was kept unlocked during the day (Tr. 249) and which was used by a pumper and a roustabout to get to and from a lease on the land (Tr. 252). The agents testified that they observed no signs prohibiting them from entering the property (Tr. 13,51,52,60,158,197).

The agents traveled what was charaterized as an "open road" until they arrived at a fence, where they parked their vehicle (Tr. 13). No fence or gate lock was ever cut on the way to the marijuana patch. Cf. Florida v. Brady, 406 So.2d 1093 (1982), cert. granted, U.S. ___, 50 U.S.L.W. 3934 (U.S. May 24, 1982).

The petitioner presented evidence that along the road which led to the fence there was a sign which stated "No Hunting," "Private Property" (Tr. 249-250; defendant's Exhibit No. 3). However, even if this testimony were true, the admonition falls short of that which prohibits entry onto land under Oklahoma law. Title 21 O.S.1981, § 1835(a) states:

"(a) Whoever shall willfully or maliciously enter the garden, yard, or enclosed field of another after being expressly forbidden to do so by the owner or occupant thereof shall be deemed guilty of trespass and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00); provided, that anyone who will-fully or maliciously enters any such garden, yard, or field, and therein commits or attempts to commit waste, theft, or damage shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment." (Emphasis added)

Therefore, the statute above requires: (1) an "enclosed field" and (2) one to be "expressly forbidden" from entering such. The evidence revealed that there was no sign near either the fence that was crossed when the agents parked their vehicle or on the orange fence which immediately surrounding the marijuana patch. The sign by the open road in the present case, if it existed, is inadequate to prohibit entry onto the land in question. Cf. United States v. Oliver, 686 F.2d 356, 358 (6th Cir. 1982), cert. granted, _______U.S. _____, 51 U.S.L.W. 3552 (U.S. January 29, 1983) ("No Trespassing" signs).

Furthermore, even if the agents were trespassing, this does not prohibit an open field search. Hester v. United States, supra, 265 U.S. at 58.

Finally, since there was a conflict in testimony as to the existence of the sign, it is submitted that fact makes this case a less than attractive one to be used as a vehicle for reexamination of the open fields doctrine. This apparently is what this Court is contemplating at this time. See United States v. Knotts, U.S. ___, 51 U.S.L.W. 4232, 4236 (U.S. March 2, 1983) (Blackman, J., concurring). The trial court never made a specific finding as to which testimony he found to be true (Tr. of April 7, 1983 hearing, pp. 26-29), but merely overruled the Motion to Suppress.

II. THE SEARCH WARRANT ADEQUATELY
DESCRIBED THE PLACE TO BE
SEARCHED, THE ITEMS TO BE SEIZED
AND CLEARLY SETS FORTH PROBABLE
CAUSE FOR BELIEF THAT THE ITEMS
SOUGHT WERE ON THE PROPERTY
SEARCHED.

The petitioner contends that the search warrant in question is overly broad in its description of the items to be seized and the place to be searched. The petitioner also claims that the affidavit for the search warrant failed to supply sufficient information to support a finding of probable cause (Petition, pp. 16-17).

A review of the search warrant reveals that the description of property to be seized is more than adequate (See Affidavit for Search Warrant, Appendix I). Andresen v. Maryland, 427 U.S. 463 (1976). Furthermore, the place to be searched is adequately described (See Search Warrant, Appendix II).

With regard to the contention that the affidavit does not contain sufficient information to support the issuance of a search warrant, perusal of the affidavit demonstrates that this contention is also meritless (Affidavit, Appendix I). Gates v. Illinois, _____U.S.____, 51 U.S.L.W. 4709 (U.S. June 8, 1983).

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated, it is respectfully requested that the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL C. TURPEN Attorney General of Oklahoma

DAVID W. LEE Assistant Attorney General Chief, Federal Division

112 State Capitol Building Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 521-3921

Attorneys for Respondent

September, 1983

APPENDIX I - AFFIDAVIT

THE DISTRICT COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

STATE OF GKLAHON COUNTY OF WASHINGTON)

MISCL. NO. - 20-23

21. 22. 23. 25. 27. 29.

93

37. 38.

42. 45. 47.

APPIDAVIT FOR SEARCH HARBANT

JOHN GUYTON JOHN CUYTON

being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says that the following property constitutes evidence of the commission of a crise:

1.Msrihuana, in plant and/or any other form

2.Instrumentalities used in the processing and cultivation of merijuena, including compressors, scales, senses, recorded or recorded. including compressors, scales, moneys, records or receipts of marijuana, actions, or other weighing or packaging devices, maribuana paraphernalia and/or other smoking devices. 3. Firearms

18. and that the above mentioned property is now located as follows: 11. The field below-described in Paragraph 4 below in this Affidavic. 113. The area immediately contiguous to said field.

13. May trailer on said property 1/4 to 1/2 mile to the south of the green metal 14. gate below-described on the road leading south off the section line road just # 13. of said green metal gate 16 day other outbuildings on said property.
17. in the Glapub?
18. Oklahomo. Washington County, State of

Drugs, stationed in Oklahoma City, OK.

2. On 8-4-80, Affiant received a telaphome call at his Oklahoma City office from a citizen informent, whose identity must remain confidential for his general actizen informent, whose identity must remain confidential for his general actizen informent, whose identity must remain confidential for his general from a citizen informent, whose identity must remain confidential for his general from a citizen informent, whose identity must remain confidential for his general from the sense within 3 or 4 days prior to his call, a large marihuana field near his residence in Washington County, OK. He requested a personal meeting with Affiant in Bartlesville, OK. On 8-6-80, Affiant and GANDO Agest J.b. Harris met with the informent in Bartlesville, and were then taken by the informant within about 1/2 mile of the above-described field, which was visible from that location. He also gave Affiant further directions as to how to approach the terrihuman field from the south about 1/4 mile from the field itsalf.

In order to make verification, if possible, of the informant's information, Affiant and Agent Harris proceeded on foot to a field approximately 1/2 the issue of a football field. Frior to entering said field, Affiant could observe, that it was full of green growing plents of marihuman. Affiant was been involved in natootics investigation. He has seen and handled merihuma planta hundreds of times, and has perfermed memerous field teats on same to determin marihuman content, with positive results in later analysis by chemists. He has also attended numerous seminars and police schools in which marihuman plants have discretely active results in later analysis by chemists. He has also attended numerous seminars and police schools in which marihuman plants he has had appearance of the suspected to the appearance of the suspected to the appearance of the suspected to the above occasion was identical to the appearance of the suspected from a morthesm plants have field to indeed the plants

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APPENDIX I - AFFIDAVIT (Continued)

CONTINUED FROM PROMIT

a large knife in his hand. Affiant also observed Anderson to be armed with a handgun carried in a holster on his hip. Anderson was gathering said marihums plants under his free arm. Upon being unable to concoal themselves further, Affiant and Agent Harris attested Anderson after identifying thamselves as officers. Soon shapeafter; Affiant contacted local authorities to assist in the preparation of this Affidavit for Search Warrant. (Page Two) 3. When Affiant first met with the above-mentioned informant 8-6-80, he told Affiant that he would take Affiant to the property "the back way, "so he would not be detected. He stated that the name of the individual cultivating the merihuans in question was Chub Anderson. He also stated that Chub Anderson's cultivation meeting the merihuans cultivation meeting the merihuans cultivation meeting the merihant cultivation meeting the me mer be detected. He stated that the name of the individual cultivating the marihuana in question was Chub Anderson. He also stated that Chub Anderson's ation. He stated that time was of the assence, in that he know that Chub Anderson was harvesting the marihuana at that time, from conversations with the thickness of the assence, in that he know that Chub Anderson was harvesting the marihuana at that time, from conversations with to the above-described location. The informant took Affiant north from the intersection of Don Tyler Avenue in Dewey to a section line road (east-west) intersection of Don Tyler Avenue in Dewey to a section line road (morth of Dewey, Thence eastabout 3.6 miles to a green metal gate on the sout stated that Chub Anderson resided in a trailer Mouse 1/2 to 1/2 miles on the informant then that Chub Anderson resided in a trailer Mouse 1/2 to 1/2 miles described stated that Chub Anderson resided in a trailer Mouse 1/2 to 1/2 miles described suffly lidings. The informant then took Affiant 7 miles west to the first above west of the green metal gate. Thence south on the north-south section line intersecting the original section line martiened line about 1 mile to a point where said section line curves left (east), and Themce east on the same section line past several oil storage tanks beside as the house sits on the morth-section of the curve. The road Thence across a dry creak bed, and approximately snother 1/4 mile served orange plastic piping on the ground at this location. Affiant observed orange plastic piping on the ground at this location. Affiant about on its southern edge. Affiant and Agent Marris chem entered the field as described in paragraph 2 above.

A. From his experience in narcotics and marihuana investigations, Affiant is every that, once proving marihuana is harvested, the cultivators, prior to 69. 21. 23. described in paragraph 2 above.

A. From his experience in narcotics and marihuena investigations, Affiant is aware that, once growing marihuena is hervested, the cultivators, prior to marketing same, dry it, strip it and package. There is a reasonable possibilitate there will be near the above field, facilities for performing the above device used to commact marihuena into marketable size packages, scales or other veighing devices, records and/or receipts of past such transactions, memorys, other marihuena in any form, marihuena paraphernalia and/or smoking devices. 48. 5. The handgum found on Chub Anderson's person was alcoded .237 Rusger 44. Security Six magnum handgum. Affiant has been informed that Chub Anderson 49. is a convicted felon, having received a 7 year sentence in the District 49. Domestic Animals, peroled in 1965 for the felony offense of Larcony of 50. is therefore a felony offense of Carrying a Firearm After Former Conviction 31. g of 4 Felony .21 0.5, 1281

APPENDIX II - SEARCH WARRANT

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1		THE DISTRICT	T COURT OF I	MOTON .	COUNTY	* . *
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4.) su.			HISCL	. m. 30-
	COUNTY OF WASHINGT	towy			*	
6.			SEARCE HARR	MIT		
7. 8. 9.	TO: ANY SHERIFF. COUNTY, STATE	POLICEMAN O	M LAW EXFOR	CENSUS OFFI	CER IN 10	MOTORISMA
30.	Affidavit having b	een sworn to	o by the Af	fiant(s)_j	HIM CUTTO	
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